



2021 Mountbatten Medal Citation Dax Lamb

On 20th February 2021, 47-year-old Dax Lamb was celebrating a friend's birthday at Umhlanga Rocks in South Africa, when his group was alerted to a drowning in progress off Umdloti Beach. Dax, a holder of the Lifesaving South Africa Surf Proficiency Award, immediately sprinted across the beach and swam approximately 250m through the turbulent surf, reaching the 5-year-old casualty as he was pulled under a big wave. Dax dived under the water and pulled the boy to the surface, giving him a thump to the chest, causing the boy to vomit. At this point Dax saw his friend, a former LSA lifeguard, standing on the shoreline and signalled that he needed assistance. His friend swam out and reached them as they were being hammered by waves crashing over them. Dax and his friend were struggling to keep the boy above water, when two former Surf Lifesaving Club members, who were spending time on the beach, arrived on surfboards to assist. They loaded the young boy on to one surfboard, and the two of them swam him ashore. Dax's friend used the other surfboard to get back to the beach. Dax, who was totally exhausted by then, allowed the current to take him further out and south, before he eventually managed to reach the beach. He then checked on the young casualty who was being monitored by the lifeguards.

Without Dax's quick and fearless response, the boy would have disappeared below the turbulent waves.

For his brave and selfless actions, Dax Lamb is awarded the 2021 Mountbatten Medal